

GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2015 AT FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, MOUNT STREET, MANCHESTER

PRESENT

Manchester CC	Cllr Angeliki Stogia
Oldham MBC	Cllr Colin McLaren
Rochdale MBC	Cllr Robert Clegg Cllr Sara Rowbotham
Salford CC	Cllr John Ferguson Cllr John Walsh
Stockport MBC	Cllr Wendy Wild Cllr John McGahan
Tameside MBC	Cllr John Bell
Trafford MBC:	Cllr Barry Brotherton Cllr Pam Dixon
Wigan MBC	Cllr John O'Brien (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE

Salford CC	Chris Findley
GM Planning & Housing Team	Anne Morgan
GMIST	Susan Ford
	Rebecca Heron
	Kerry Bond
	Garreth Bruff

15/54 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Andrew Morgan (Bolton), Ian Bevan (Bury); Jane Black (Bury); Ahmed Ali (Manchester), Matt Strong (Manchester), Cath Ball (Oldham), Julia Turner (Oldham), Neil Butterworth (Rochdale), Jillian Collinson (Salford), Susan Ingham (Stockport), Maria Bailey (Tameside), Gill Peet (Tameside), Jonathan Coupe (Trafford), Edward Houlton (Wigan), Pam Stewart (Wigan).

15/55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in respect of any item on the agenda.

15/56 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2015

The minutes of the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 13 November 2015 were submitted for consideration.

RESOLVED/-

To approve the minutes of the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 13 November 2015.

15/57 SCRUTINY POOL WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16 AND UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTING THE SCRUTINY REVIEW

Susan Ford introduced the report detailing progress made in task and finish working and suggested topics, the role description for scrutiny members, and the work programme schedule for the coming months.

The task and finish group met on 1 December 2015 and have proposed task and finish working on two themes:

1. Post 16 provision of education and training (including the GM area review). It is proposed to initiate this work before Christmas and to report back to March 11 Pool meeting.
2. Digital infrastructure as an enabler of GM's growth ambitions. It is proposed to commence this work in January.

Members were advised that additional support on the two task and finish groups would be welcomed and if they wish to get involved in the work to contact GMIST officers.

RESOLVED/-

1. To agree the items for the meeting scheduled for 15 January 2015.
2. To agree the contents of the work programme, noting the consolidated forward plan for GMCA and AGMA meetings for the next four months.
4. To note the progress made in task and finish working.
5. That members would contact GMIST officers if they would like to participate in either of the two task and finish groups being established as described in section 2 of the report.
6. To agree the revised Scrutiny member role description as set out in section 3 of the report.

15/58 GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK – STRATEGIC GROWTH OPTIONS CONSULTATION

Chris Findley presented a report and gave a presentation updating members on the current consultation on the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, including:

- Priorities
- GM Devolution – Strategic Planning Powers

- GMSF: status, purpose and scope
- Aims
- Strategic Growth Options – current consultation 9 November-11 January
- Strategic Objectives
- Growth Options
- Call for additional development sites
- Next steps

Questions and comments from the Scrutiny Pool included-

Q. Has work on local plans stopped, and what does the GMSF mean for the three districts without local plans in place: Bury, Salford and Tameside.

- A. Work on local plans still continues as the GMSF is a local plan, albeit, being under taken at a GM scale and collaboratively. We will have to sequence events to deliver the GMSF and any other local individual district plans.
Discussions are also taking place between GM senior officers, DCLG and Treasury around the governments target to have all local plans in place by 2017.

Q. Will the GMSF look at wider cultural changes such as, for example apartment living?

- A. The GMSF isn't just about setting housing numbers, but will need to consider types and quality of housing. We will also need to look at consultation responses to enable selection of correctly evidence based growth options.

Q. There is a lot of controversy relating to brownfield sites, many sites are privately owned which creates obstacles; do GM have any powers to overcome any problems that may emerge?

- A. As part of the devolution agreements the government and the HCA are working with GM to establish a Land Commission that will help to unlock public land for housing development. A Land Programme is also being explored through the latest devolution agreement, discussions are taking place with government and the HCA to enable a business case to be developed to unlock brownfield sites.

Q. Will the GMSF help to identify and protect Green Infrastructure and what does it mean for localities?

- A. Green Infrastructure is important, for example, open spaces, parks, nature conservation areas etc. As the GMSF is a statutory plan we will have to understand this and reflect the importance of green infrastructure in GM. We are liaising with the GM Ecology Unit to ensure we have the evidence required.

Q. How can planning authorities encourage development, address stalled sites and land banking as well as making sure developers contribute to infrastructure?

- A. The government provide advice on viability, planning authorities have to take viability into account when preparing a plan or planning decisions. Contributions from developers can be sought through Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy, local authorities often use their own valuers to ensure they carry out a rigorous process.

Q. Some local authorities have more land than others, how will we distribute development around districts?

A. The GMSF will help identify the objectively assessed needs for housing and employment land in GM and districts, but will get a better understanding of distribution that can be policy driven and part of the GMSF process.

In conclusion, the Chair emphasised a number of matters which could be picked up through the process going forwards-

- Integration of training and skills to access opportunities from development being driven by the GMSF.
- How do DCLG reach their housing figures? GM has a 3% growth, which in comparison to London figures is very disproportionate.
- Looking at whether the Infrastructure Levy could open up sites to build on.
- The benefits of a single GM public enquiry for the framework rather than 10 individual ones.
- Green Space: there is a duty within GM to raise awareness on the differences between green belt, green land and open space. Realistic communications and engagement is required.
- Types of and quality of housing, to make GM a place where people would want to move to.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report and presentation.
2. That a report be brought to the April 2016 meeting.

15/59 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2015/16

The schedule of meetings for 2015/16 was agreed as-

15 January 2016
 12 February 2016
 11 March 2016 - hosted by Manchester Airport
 8 April 2016
 10 June 20106

All meetings will be held 1:00pm - 3:00pm at Manchester Town Hall except for the meeting scheduled for 11 March 2016.

Chair